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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 583
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Lady Bears of Mount Juliet Middle School on their 2002 Basketball State Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those gifted student-athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the girls basketball team at Mount Juliet Middle School is comprised of such estimable Tennesseans who won the 2002 State Championship; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, they maximized their considerable talents and reached the pinnacle of middle school athletics; and

WHEREAS, they began their season with a decisive 42-24 victory over Baxter and went on to compile an extraordinary 21-4 record; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, the Lady Bears defeated Smyrna 33-30 on a last-second shot to claim the TMSAA Conference Tournament Championship; and

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WHEREAS, in the semifinals of the state tournament, they faced a stern challenge from the powerful Whitthorne squad from Columbia; the Lady Bears battled back from a ten-point deficit at the half to tie the game with thirty seconds remaining and a forced overtime; and

WHEREAS, in overtime, Mount Juliet Middle School shrewdly worked the clock before attempting their first shot with only four seconds remaining; the aim was true, and they advanced to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, in the championship, they were matched up with arch rival Smyrna for the fourth time in the season; the Smyrna squad proved to be no match for the Lady Bears, as Mount Juliet never trailed in the game and cruised to a 37-26 victory and the title of State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the ladies of Mount Juliet Middle School have ensured that they will forever be remembered as one of the greatest middle school teams ever to grace the basketball courts of this state; and

WHEREAS, this year's State Championship was the second consecutive one for many of the girls, who had previously competed for the 2001 championship team at the old Mount Juliet Junior High; and

WHEREAS, the championship marked the triumphal conclusion of a stalwart effort that began many months ago with the team's summer conditioning workouts in the weight room and on the football field; and

WHEREAS, the tremendously talented Lady Bear athletes included Ashley Burrows, Rebecca Gary, Christian Gibson, Morgan Hill, Kelli Johnson, Lacy Johnston, Paige McFarlin, Sarah Muniz, Nancy Taylor, Casey Pigue, Katie Tolen, Allie Batson, Miaca Bowman, Paige Cutright, Hailey Holland, Mandy McGee, Brittany Mehring, and Logan Posey; and

WHEREAS, Miss McFarlin was selected as the State Tournament Most Valuable Player and was joined by Miss Bowman, Miss Gibson, and Miss Muniz on the All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, the team was ably guided by highly regarded Head Coach Rick Johnson and Assistant Coach Gary McFarlin, who helped precipitate the team's unrivalled success by sharing their deep love and great knowledge of the sport; and

WHEREAS, these ladies epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success in sports, while evidencing the most circumspect character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young student-athletes not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2002 Mount Juliet Middle School Lady Bears for their success on the court and for serving as a fine example of the high quality of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Mount Juliet Middle School in celebrating the Lady Bears' 2002 Basketball State Championship and honor and commend the talented ladies who achieved this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them much continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.